

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

----- 059024

R 091105Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4173

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

UNCLAS ZAGREB 1039

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, YO

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE'S NEWSWEEK
INTERVIEW

1. HIGH DEGREE OF CURIOSITY ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS EVIDENT IN WIDESPREAD COVERAGE OF NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW OF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE. ZAGREB DAILY "VJESNIK" OF DEC. 9 CARRIED TANJUG STORY ENTITLED "VANCE ON EUROCOMMUNISM, DETENTE." ARTICLE RECAPS COMMENTS IN NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW ON SALT TALKS, MIDDLE EAST, NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, CHINA, PANAMA CANAL, AND SOUTH AFRICA. OF SPECIAL INTEREST, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, IS SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE'S REMARK THAT "EUROCOMMUNISM IS A DOMESTIC MATTER AND SHOULD BE LEFT TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES TO RESOLVE AS THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE."

2. ZAGREB TABLOID "VECERNJI LIST" OF DEC 9 CARRIES TWO ARTICLES ON NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW. ONE ARTICLE SUMMARIZES INTERVIEW WHILE COMMENTARY BY COLUMNIST "SPECTATOR" PAYS SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE'S REMARKS ON IMPORTANCE OF PREPARATION FOR BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP TO HELSINKI CONFERENCE. ZAGREB TELEVISION ALSO REPORTED ON NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW DURING EVENING NEWS ON DEC. 8.

3. COMMENT: LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW IS ONLY ONE SIGN OF HIGH DEGREE OF CURIOSITY ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS OF ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER. CONGEN OFFICERS HAVE HAD FREQUENT QUESTIONS FROM WIDE VARIETY OF CONTACTS ON WHAT KIND OF CHANGES NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL BRING. GROSS
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